

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 06462 252158Z

64

ACTION ORM-01

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SUBJ: WIGGINS REPORT ON CHILEAN PAROLE PROGRAM

REF: STATE 227513

1. AS REQUESTED REFTEL, OUR VIEWS ON RECOMMENDATIONS IN SUBJECT REPORT ARE AS FOLLOWS: RECOMMENDATION TO BE MORE SELECTIVE AND WITHHOLD FINAL ACTION UNTIL A LARGE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS ARE RECEIVED.

COMMENT: WE COULD, OF COURSE, PROCEED IN THIS MANNER. HOWEVER, WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT GOC BUREAUCRATIC MACHINERY DECIDING WHICH DETAINEES WILL BE RELEASED FOR OVERSEAS PLACEMENT IS MOVING VERY SLOWLY, AND NAMES ARE EMERGING AS A TRICKLE RATHER THAN A TORRENT. CONSEQUENTLY, WE ARE PROBABLY SOME MONTHS AWAY FROM THE TIME WHEN THE GOC WOULD HAVE PROCESSED SUFFICIENT NAMES TO MEET CONGRESSMAN'S CRITERION OF ALLOWING A REASONABLE SELECTION, INCLUDING INTERVIEWING AND OTHER PROCESSING, PARTICULARLY SECURITY CHECKS BY US OFFICIALS. MOREOVER, SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES BESIDES THE UNITED STATES ARE ACCEPTING DETAINEES. IN FOLLOWING CONGRESSMAN'S RECOMMENDATION, WE WOULD RUN REAL RISK OF WINDING UP WITH ONLY A HANDFUL OF PERSONS AT END OF PROGRAM, WITH CONSEQUENT EMBARRASSMENT TO USG FOR HAVING APPARENTLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 06462 252158Z

FAILED TO LIVE UP TO OUR ANNOUNCED DECISION TO ACCEPT A REASONA-

BLE NUMBER. FURTHER, HANDFUL GOING TO UNITED STATES MIGHT IN ANY EVENT BE THE LEFT-OVERS, SINCE OTHER MORE PLACEABLE DETAINEES PROBABLY WOULD PREFER TRAVELING TO SOME OTHER COUNTRY THAN WAITING IN JAIL FOR EVENTUAL US DECISION. FOR EXAMPLE, PANAMA RECENTLY TOOK 100 DETAINEES, INCLUDING 28 WHO WERE UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION FOR US PAROLE.

2. RECOMMENDATION TO USE OTHER SOURCES BESIDES ICEM TO DEVELOP CASES. COMMENT: WE HAVE MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION. FIRST, GOC HAS SIGNED FORMAL AGREEMENTS WITH ICEM, ICRC, AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES WHICH EXPLICITLY ASSIGN TO ICEM ROLE AS EXCLUSIVE POINT OF CONTACT WITH GOC ON DETAINEE RELEASE PROGRAM AND AS THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR PLACING AND TRANSPORTING DETAINEE TO A RECEIVING COUNTRY. ALL COUNTRIES EXCEPT CANADA (SEE BELOW) WHICH ARE ACCEPTING DETAINEES USE ICEM, AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES SUCH AS ICRC AND PEACE COMMITTEE ALSO PROVIDE NAMES TO ICEM. ICEM DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO PLACE A DETAINEE UNTIL THAT PERSONS EITHER HAS AN EXILE DECREE FROM THE GOC OR FIRM ASSURANCES FROM GOC THAT SUCH A DECREE WILL BE ISSUED. THIS PROCEDURE COINCIDES WITH OUR PRESENT INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO PROCESS CASES UNLESS THERE IS A STRONG PRESUMPTION THAT GOC WILL EVENTUALLY RELEASE THE DETAINEE.

3. SECONDLY, IT WOULD TAKE A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OF US RESOURCES TO MOUNT, IN EFFECT, A PARALLEL OPERATION TO ICEM. FOR EXAMPLE, WE COULD ACCEPT NAMES OF DETAINEES FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES SUCH AS PEACE COMMITTEE OR SENATOR KENNEDY'S STAFF (STATE 227514). THEN HOWEVER, US OFFICERS WOULD HAVE TO FIND AND INTERVIEW THESE PERSONS, AND WE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE DIRECT REPRESENTATIONS TO GOC TO RELEASE THEM. THERE IS A PRECEDENT HERE FOR SUCH A PROGRAM. IN DECEMBER 1974 CANADA DECIDED THAT IT WOULD TAKE 100 DETAINEES PRESENTLY SERVING SENTENCES, IN A ONE-SHOT PROGRAM, AND THAT PROGRAM WOULD HAVE TO BE SEPARATE, SINCE CANADA IS NOT AN ICEM MEMBER. SPECIAL CANADIAN IMMIGRATION TEAM OF THREE OFFICERS CAME TO CHILE AND INTERVIEWED SOME 150 DETAINEES IN JANUARY AND EARLY FEBRUARY 1975. FINAL LIST OF NAMES OF DETAINEES CANADA WANTED WAS SENT TO GOC BY END OF MARCH, AND TWO OF THREE OFFICERS WENT HOME. TODAY, SIX MONTHS LATER, ONLY 26 OF THE 100 HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN RELEASED BY GOC AND HAVE GONE TO CANADA, AND ONE TDY OFFICER REMAINS. WE DOUBT ANY DIRECT US PROGRAM WOULD BE ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SANTIA 06462 252158Z

MORE EFFECTIVE OR EXPEDITIOUS THAN CANADA'S, AND IT WOULD BE MUCH HARDER TO EXPLAIN WHY WE HAD ESTABLISHED IT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ACTIVELY WORKING WITH ICEM. IN ADDITION TO EXTRA PERSONNEL THAT DIRECT US PROGRAM WOULD REQUIRE, WE WOULD FORESEE INCREASED FRICTION WITH GOC INEVITABLY ARISING AS WE GOT INTO DETAILS OF FINDING DETAINEES, INTERVIEWING THEM, AND PUTTING PRESSURE ON GOC TO RELEASE THOSE OF INTEREST TO US.

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